

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections set forth in the Office Action of January 29, 2010 is respectfully requested.

By this amendment, claim 22 has been amended, claims 13-21 and 23-24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein, and claims 25-43 have been added. Claims 22 and 25-43 are now pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The specification has been reviewed and revised, and the amendments to the specification have been incorporated into the substitute specification attached herewith. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the specification and abstract indicating the changes made thereto is also enclosed. No new matter has been added by these revisions. Entry of the substitute specification is respectfully requested.

II. Drawings

On page 2 of the Office Action, figure 13 is objected to for failing to include a legend such as --Prior Art--. A replacement sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) is submitted herewith to correct this omission; no new matter has been added. Withdrawal of this objection is thus respectfully requested.

III. Claim Objections

Also on pages 2 of the Office Action, claims 16 and 19 are objected to regarding a minor informality. This objection is believed to be moot in view of the cancellation of claims 16 and 19, and Applicants submit that new claims 25-43 do not include such an informality. Withdrawal of these objections is thus respectfully requested.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 112

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 14, 15, and 17-19 are rejected as being indefinite. These rejections are believed to be moot in view of the cancellation of claims 14, 15, and 17-19, and Applicants submit that new claims 25-43 are clear and definite. Withdrawal of these rejections is thus respectfully requested.

V. Prior Art Rejections and Allowable Subject Matter

Currently, claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Aizawa (JP 2003127082A), claims 13-15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seno (US 4,794,689) in view of Aizawa, and claims 13, 16, 17, and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aizawa in view of Kanai (JP 2002307359).

On page 7 of the Office Action, claim 22 is indicated as including allowable subject matter. Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form, and also includes minor corrections to address the formal issues raised by the Examiner. Allowance is respectfully requested.

The rejections of claims 13-21 are believed to be moot in view of the cancellation of those claims. Further, claim 25 is patentable over Aizawa, Seno, and Kanai for the following

reasons. Claim 25 recites a component mounting head for sucking and holding a component so as to place the component at a component mounting position on a board and for releasing the suction and holding of the component to mount the component onto the component mounting position, the component mounting head comprising: a suction nozzle including a suction-and-holding face for sucking and holding the component, wherein a suction hole is defined in the suction-and-holding face, the suction hole having a main hole portion and five extended hole portions, wherein the main hole portion is formed in a circular shape or a generally circular shape and is concentric with an axial center of the suction nozzle, wherein the five extended hole portions extend from the main hole portion in five radial directions, respectively, at a generally uniform angular pitch, and wherein the five extended hole portions are integrally formed with the main hole portion such that the suction hole constitutes a single hole formed collectively by the main hole portion and the five extended hole portions.

On pages 4-6 of the Office Action, it is asserted that the suction nozzle of Aizawa meets the requirements of claim 13 with respect to the configuration of the suction hole. However, claim 25 requires a suction nozzle including a suction hole having a main hole portion and five extended hole portions, wherein the five extended hole portions are integrally formed with the main hole portion such that the suction hole constitutes a single hole formed collectively by the main hole portion and the five extended hole portions. In contrast, Aizawa discloses a suction nozzle (1) including a plurality of discrete suction holes (8a, 8b), each suction hole having a partition which separates it from the other suction holes. (See figure 3 of Aizawa). Because Aizawa does not disclose a suction nozzle including a suction hole having a main hole portion and five extended hole portions wherein the five extended hole portions are integrally formed with the main hole portion such that the suction hole constitutes a single hole formed collectively

by the main hole portion and the five extended hole portions, Aizawa cannot meet the requirements of claim 25.

【図3】

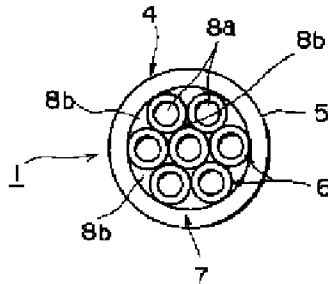


Figure 3 of Aizawa (JP 2003127082)

The claimed configuration of the present application provides significant advantages over the prior art. Specifically, as described on pages 15, 16, and 54 of the specification, the configuration of the present invention enables the component mounting head to reliably and stably hold both large and small components, and prevents small components from entering into the suction hole in the event that the component is inadvertently held in an oblique posture by the component mounting head. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the above-discussed claim limitations are critical to the present invention and result in significant advantages which are not achieved in the prior art of record,

The Seno and Kanai references are relied on for alleged disclosures which are unrelated to the above-discussed deficiencies of Aizawa, and Applicants submit that the Seno and Kanai references also fail to disclose the above-discussed requirements of claim 25.

Further, it appears as though there would have been no reason to modify any of the prior art of record to yield a configuration which would meet the requirements of claim 25. It is thus submitted that the invention of the present application, as defined in claim 25, is not anticipated

nor rendered obvious by the prior art, and yields significant advantages over the prior art.

Allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 25 and are thus allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in support of claim 25. Claim 34 requires limitations similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 25, and Applicants submit that claim 34 is allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in support of claim 25. Claims 35-43 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 34 and are thus allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, inasmuch as all of the outstanding issues have been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and action to such effect is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain after consideration of the response, however, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Hideki UCHIDA et al.

By /Andrew D. St.Clair/

Andrew D. St.Clair
Registration No. 58,739
Attorney for Applicants

Digitally signed by /Andrew D. St.Clair/
DN: cn=/Andrew D. St.Clair/, o, ou,
email=astclair@wenderoth.com, c=US
Date: 2010.04.26 10:14:30 -04'00'

Enclosure: Replacement Sheet for Figure 13

ADS/rgf
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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